

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ALLISON CLAIRE, MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff,  
vs. Sacramento, California  
No. 2:20-cr-00213  
CHALONER SAINTILLUS, Friday, April 23, 2021  
2:46 p.m.  
Defendant.

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

RE: MOTION FOR BAIL REVIEW

*(Proceedings held via Zoom video conference.)*

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APPEARANCES:

For the Government: UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
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501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

For the Defendant: OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL DEFENDER  
MIA CRAGER  
Assistant Federal Defender  
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Assistant Federal Defender  
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*Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography. Transcript  
produced by computer-aided transcription.*

1 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021, 2:46 PM

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3 THE CLERK: Calling 20-cr-213, United States versus  
4 Chaloner Saintillus. This is on calendar for motion for bail  
5 review, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Appearances, please.

7 MS. CRAGER: Before we begin, could we have a short  
8 breakout session with the defendant?

9 THE COURT: Yes, you may, Ms. Crager.

10 Let's create a breakout room for Ms. Crager and the  
11 defendant.

12 And I believe there's nothing else on calendar. Am I  
13 right, Jonathan?

14 THE CLERK: Correct.

15 THE COURT: So let's take a five-minute recess.

16 (Recess taken 2:46 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.)

17 THE CLERK: Recalling 20-cr-213, United States versus  
18 Chaloner Saintillus. This is on calendar for motion for bail  
19 review, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Appearances, please.

21 MR. STEFANKI: Good afternoon, your Honor.

22 Sam Stefanki on behalf of the United States.

23 THE COURT: Good afternoon, Mr. Stefanki.

24 MS. CRAGER: Good afternoon, your Honor. Mia Crager  
25 for the Federal Defender. I'm here with Mr. Baigmohammadi who

1 is also representing Mr. Saintillus. He is at the Sacramento  
2 County Jail appearing by Zoom. We do consent to appear by Zoom  
3 today.

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon to all of you.

5 I have reviewed the defense motion for bail review,  
6 the government's opposition, and its exhibits, a report of the  
7 pretrial services officer dated today as well as the March 26  
8 supplemental and the Florida report.

9 So Ms. Crager, it is your motion to argue. I will  
10 tell you that the thing that gives me the greatest pause of all  
11 about your motion is the transcript of the hearing in Florida  
12 which I appreciate Mr. Stefanki providing. I think that it  
13 strongly supports his argument. So please address it in your  
14 argument to me.

15 MS. CRAGER: Your Honor, unfortunately, just based on  
16 our conversation in the breakout room, Mr. Saintillus has  
17 expressed that he would like to represent himself. On that  
18 basis --

19 (Reporter interruption regarding sound interference.)

20 THE COURT: He might need to unmute the jail again in  
21 a moment because -- if there's a request for  
22 self-representation.

23 THE REPORTER: Okay. Thanks.

24 THE COURT: Ms. Crager, is the defendant requesting to  
25 represent himself only for purpose of this bail review hearing

1 or in general in this case?

2 MS. CRAGER: Your Honor, unfortunately, during this  
3 breakout session is the first time we had discussed this, and  
4 we didn't have time to have a full discussion about that.

5 THE COURT: Okay. In that case, I would continue this  
6 matter to next week.

7 THE DEFENDANT: I would like my constitutional right  
8 to bail.

9 THE COURT: I hear you, and I -- Mr. Saintillus, let  
10 me just tell you that when a defendant wants to represent  
11 themselves, the Court has to take great care to understand that  
12 you understand all of the risks of doing that and so forth.

13 Can you tell me, sir, did you want to represent  
14 yourself only for this hearing on the bail review motion or for  
15 this whole case?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Are you speaking to me or --

17 THE COURT: I'm speaking to you right now.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. I want to represent myself  
19 forever.

20 THE COURT: You want to represent yourself forever?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Not that artificial being that you  
22 guys are referring to on paper.

23 THE COURT: Do you want to represent yourself in this  
24 entire prosecution?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Because I am not a U.S. citizen.

1 I am a Moor of America, of -- you know, my nationality is Moor.  
2 So my national domicile is North America. And then just like  
3 here and in Florida, they do not have vote -- have upheld my  
4 constitutional rights. They just had me --

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 THE DEFENDANT: -- and all of the above.

7 THE COURT: Let me interrupt you right there because  
8 I'm not going to make a decision about your self-representation  
9 right now. I did hear you clearly state that your motion is to  
10 represent yourself for all purposes in this case, and that is  
11 not a decision I can make. That is only a decision that  
12 Judge Mueller can make.

13 So I would like to know Ms. Crager and  
14 Mr. Baigmohammadi's opinion about whether the appropriate  
15 course is to vacate the bail review motion without prejudice to  
16 refiling until after Judge Mueller can conduct a Faretta  
17 hearing or whether I should proceed.

18 THE DEFENDANT: They're denying me bail anyways.

19 THE COURT: Hang on. Hang on. I'm asking the public  
20 defender's position just about what order we should do things  
21 in.

22 Ms. Crager.

23 MS. CRAGER: Yes. Thank you, your Honor. Seeing how  
24 we cannot argue for his release until that issue is sorted out,  
25 I believe we would need to have the Faretta hearing first.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MS. CRAGER: As to what to do with the motion for bail  
3 review, if we could maybe delay it. I just -- if he wants to  
4 put it back on, I don't want that process to be delayed.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I can handle it now. Just give me an  
6 ankle monitor.

7 THE COURT: Sir, I'm going to ask you not to interrupt  
8 me or your lawyer.

9 Jonathan, can we mute the jail again.

10 We're only discussing process right now. I'm not  
11 making any decisions about the motion or about the status of  
12 counsel, but there needs to be a Faretta hearing in front of  
13 the district judge.

14 So Jonathan, is there a -- when is Judge Mueller's  
15 next reasonably available criminal calendar because I do think  
16 she needs to take this up, and then we can continue this bail  
17 review matter until after that hearing has taken place.

18 THE CLERK: She has a hearing on Monday the 26th. If  
19 that's too soon, then the following week would be the 3rd.

20 MS. CRAGER: We're actually already on for a status on  
21 the 3rd. Obviously we would like to get to see her as soon as  
22 possible but --

23 THE COURT: Jail, please. I will just note for the  
24 record that the defendant appears to be trying to -- whoa,  
25 whoa. If the defendant is going to leave, let's try to keep

1 things from getting physical at the jail, please. The  
2 defendant was attempting to leave. He's being restrained only  
3 by the arms now at the jail.

4 Ms. Crager, you said you had a status conference in  
5 front of Judge Mueller when?

6 MS. CRAGER: On May 3rd, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: All right. Let's make sure, Jonathan,  
8 that Judge Mueller is alerted to the fact that the status  
9 conference on May 3rd will include a Faretta hearing. Let's  
10 specially set this bail review matter. Actually, we don't need  
11 to do that. This can go on the 2:00 calendar of the duty judge  
12 the day after the Faretta hearing. There's no reason not to do  
13 that.

14 MS. CRAGER: Thank you, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Who has got duty on May 4th?

16 THE CLERK: That would be Judge Barnes.

17 THE COURT: All right. Judge Barnes will hear the  
18 bail review matter already briefed on May 4th after the Faretta  
19 hearing in front of Judge Mueller on May 3rd.

20 All right. Mr. Saintillus, do you understand what's  
21 happening? You'll have an opportunity on May 3rd to explain to  
22 Judge Mueller why you want to represent yourself and not have  
23 lawyers, and she will be the one who decides whether you get to  
24 do that or not. And after that, a magistrate judge will decide  
25 the bail review motion.

1           Is there anything else that I am able to do or that  
2           any counsel would like me to do today? Seeing nothing, thank  
3           you all very much for your appearances, and that concludes the  
4           calendar.

5           MR. STEFANKI: Thank you, your Honor.

6           MS. CRAGER: Thank you, your Honor.

7           MR. BAIGMOHAMMADI: Thank you, your Honor.

8           (The proceedings adjourned at 3:14 p.m.)

9                           --oOo--

10          I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the  
11          record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

12                           /s/ Kacy Parker Barajas

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14                           KACY PARKER BARAJAS  
15                           CSR No. 10915, RMR, CRR, CRC